

10-23

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 143

MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER, 1924.

DECEMBER, 1924.



January 5, 1925.

Dear Sir:

The following is my report on conditions in Yellowstone National Park for the month of December, 1924:

I. GENERAL CONDITIONS

Weather

The following records are quoted from the report for December of the Observer in charge of the local United States Weather Bureau at Mammoth Hot Springs, Park Headquarters:

The outstanding feature of the month's weather was the record-breaking prolonged period of severely cold weather, which began on the 15th and did not reach normal again until the 28th.

TEMPERATURE: Monthly mean,  $10.6^{\circ}$ , is  $11.0^{\circ}$  below normal, and the lowest of record for December. The lowest temperature was  $34^{\circ}$  below zero on the 18th, which has been equalled once in December and exceeded but twice for all months during the past 38 years. Moderate temperatures prevailed during the first half of the month, but from the 15th to the 27th was a cold period that far surpasses any previous period of record for severity and duration of low temperatures. There were 13 successive days with minimum temperature below zero, and 10 successive days with  $12^{\circ}$  or more below zero, which is just double the number of days of duration of any previous cold period of like intensity, since the weather Bureau record began in 1903. At the beginning of the cold wave the temperature fell  $61^{\circ}$  in 24 hours--from  $37^{\circ}$  above zero at 6 p.m. of the 15th to  $24^{\circ}$  below at the same hour the following day.

PRECIPITATION: Total, 1.46 inches, is 0.36 inch below normal. All occurred as snowfall.



SNOWFALL: Total 17.4 inches; normal 15.1 inches. Snow occurred on 15 days, and was generally light except for the storm of the 16th-17th, when 9.0 inches fell. The depth on the ground increased steadily from 5.7 inches on the 1st to 15.0 inches at the end of the month.

WIND: Average hourly velocity 8.1 miles; normal 8.1. The maximum velocity was 39 miles per hour from the south on the 15th.

SUNSHINE: Percentage of possible 33, normal 40.

#### General Road and Trail Conditions

The highway from Gardiner to Mammoth has not been blocked at any time this season to date, and motor travel has continued without interruption throughout. The snow plow has been used at intervals during the last 10 days of the month at headquarters. The mail stage - Gardiner to Cooke City - operated daily to December 13th. From December 13th to 31st it has made from 2 to 3 trips weekly, and beginning January 1st there will be one trip each week leaving Gardiner on Sunday morning; this schedule is calculated to remain in effect to June 1st. All other park roads are definitely closed to traffic.

#### Snow Depths

Snow depths throughout the park at the close of the month are reported as follows, and for comparative purposes the snow depths for December 31st, 1923, are also given herewith:

| <u>Station</u>            | <u>1923</u> | <u>1924</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Mammoth                   | 11 inches   | 15 inches   |
| Norris                    | 24 "        | 21 "        |
| Riverside                 | 30 "        | 22 "        |
| Gallatin                  | 23 "        | 23 "        |
| Lake                      | 24 "        | 30 "        |
| Canyon                    | 40 "        | 26 "        |
| Buffalo Ranch             | 24 "        | 22 "        |
| Soda Butte Station(Upper) | 25 "        | 30 "        |
| Norris Canyon Divide      | --          | 36 "        |
| Slough Creek, Lower Ranch |             | 30 "        |
| Slough Creek (Upper)      | 20 "        | 36 "        |
| Hellroaring               | 22 "        | 18 "        |
| South Riverside Cabin     | --          | 48 "        |
| Snake River               | --          | 27 "        |
| Aster Creek               | --          | 54 "        |
| Aster Creek Cabin         | --          | 38 "        |
| Sylvan Pass               | --          | 32 "        |

Extreme low temperatures occurred on the 18th and 19th, at which time the cold wave of the 16th to 26th inclusive reached its



greatest intensity. A new absolute minimum temperature was established for Yellowstone Park when minus 59 was reported from Riverside Station on the morning of the 19th. The previous minimum records were -56 at Snake River on February 6th, 1914, and -55 on January 31st, 1918. The average daily minimum at Mammoth, from the 16th to 26th (11 days) was -21, and the average daily minimum at Slough Creek for the same period was -36. This was the severest cold wave of record in Yellowstone Park. Prior to the 16th and subsequent to the 26th weather conditions were mild.

### Travel

No visitors were registered at any of the park entrances during the month.

## II. ADMINISTRATION OF THE PARK.

### Personnel

On December 1 there were 64 employees on the payrolls, and on December 31st there were 62. The following list shows the number of appointees of various classes serving during the month, with a general statement of the kind of work in which they were engaged:

| <u>No.</u> | <u>Class</u>          | <u>Kind of Work Performed</u>  |
|------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1          | Superintendent        | General administration and supervision of all activities in the park.  |
| 2          | Asst. Superintendents | 1 in charge of administration, purchasing, disbursing; 1 in charge of property, equipment, transportation, cost accounts, inventories, etc., also acting as assistant to Superintendent in capacity as Field Assistant to the Director.  |
| 2          | Asst. Engineers       | 1 in charge of engineering work; 1 assisting (furloughed Dec. 18).   |
| 4          | Clerks                | 1 Cost Accounting Clerk; 1 Personnel and File Clerk; 1 Clerk on orders, proposals and vouchers; also assisting with timekeeping and payroll work; 1 stenographer-typist on Superintendent's correspondence and handling all miscellaneous work on administrative side of office. |



| <u>No.</u> | <u>Class</u>                       | <u>Kind of Work Performed</u>   |
|------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 3          | Electricians                       | Operated power plant regular shift, including Sundays, read meters, did necessary line work.                          |
| 3          | Foremen                            | 1 in charge of headquarters corral and freighting work about headquarters; 2 on work in shops.                        |
| 3          | Telephone switchboard operators    | 1 operated telephone switchboard daily shift, including Sunday; two temporary WAE operators for intermittent service. |
| 1          | Master Mechanic                    | In charge of shops and of repair to machinery.  |
| 2          | Blacksmiths                        | General blacksmith work, including shoeing of horses in shop, repairing tools and equipment.                          |
| 1          | Master Plumber                     | In charge of general plumbing and water and sewer systems.  |
| 2          | Auto mechanics                     | 1 on duty in power plant; 1 on repair work.   |
| 3          | Laborers                           | Teaming, freighting, assisting mechanics and miscellaneous work at headquarters.                                      |
| 1          | Steward & Master of Transportation | In charge of all transportation and of storehouses.   |
| 1          | Chief Buffalo Keeper               | In charge of tame buffalo herd.   |
| 1          | Asst. buffalo keeper               | In charge of hay ranch operations at Slough Creek.  |
| 1          | Buffalo herder                     | Assisting buffalo keeper.   |
| 1          | Park Naturalist                    | Scientific research work and developing museum.   |
| 1          | Chief Park Ranger                  | In charge of ranger force.  |
| 1          | First Asst. Chief Ranger           | In charge of Northern District.   |
| 2          | Assts. Chief Park Ranger           | 1 on duty at Lake District; 1 in charge of Western Supervisory Territory.   |



| <u>No.</u> | <u>Class</u>                     | <u>Kind of Work Performed</u>                                       |
|------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 22         | Park Rangers (17 WAE)            | Patrolling, protecting game, fire lookout and miscellaneous duties. |
| 4          | Park Rangers, temporary, (3 WAE) | Patrolling, protecting game, and miscellaneous duties.              |

#### Leaves of Absence

William Wiggins, Master Plumber, December 1 (noon), 1/2 day.  
 Burton C. Lacombe, Chief Buffalo Keeper, December 17-18, 2 days.  
 Nellie Roach, Telephone Operator, December 18-26, 7 days.  
 William I. Davis, Assistant Engineer, December 19-31, 10 days.  
 Charlie Stinnett, Blacksmith, December 20, 1 day.  
 Arthur W. Burney, Assistant Engineer, December 4-5, 2 days.  
 Bert L. Stinnett, Master Mechanic, December 13, 1 day.  
 Anna E. Madsen, Clerk, December 16 (noon), 1/2 day.  
 Julia S. Stockett, Clerk, December 13, 1/2 day.  
 Deate T. White, Foreman, December 13, 1 day.  
 Joseph Joffe, Clerk, December 5-6, 2 days.  
 Julius L. Greer, Park Ranger, December 13, 1 day.  
 Charles W. Enochs, Foreman, December 13, 1 day.  
 A. C. D. Herman, Laborer, December 8-10, 3 days.  
 August C. Neumann, Master Painter, December 2-6, 5 days.  
 August C. Neumann, Master Painter, December 26-31, 5 days.  
 Forest L. Carter, Park Ranger, December 29-31, 3 days.  
 Julia S. Stockett, Clerk, December 27, 1/2 day.  
 Anna E. Madsen, Clerk, December 18, 1/2 day.  
 Charles Green, Laborer, December 26-30, 4 days.  
 Julia S. Stockett, Clerk, December 17, 1 day.  
 Deate T. White, Foreman, December 24-26, 2 days.  
 Harry J. Liek, Park Ranger, December 23-31, 7 days.  
 James N. Dupuis, Park Ranger, December 29-31, 3 days.  
 William H. Riley, Auto Mechanic, - - SICK LEAVE - December 17-27, 11 days.  
 Bert L. Stinnett, Master Mechanic, December 26-30, 4 days.  
 Anna E. Madsen, Clerk, December 31 (noon), 1/2 day.  
 Charles Stinnett, Blacksmith, December 27-30 (noon), 2-1/2 days.

#### Leave Without Pay

Nellie Roach, Telephone Operator, December 27-31.  
 Daniel W. Tripp, Laborer, December 1-31.

#### Furloughs

William I. Davis, Assistant Engineer, from December 19-31.

#### Promotions

Charles A. Brant, Field Steward and Master of Transportation, from \$1740 per annum and quarters to \$1860 per annum and quarters, effective Dec. 16.



### Office Force Activities

782 pieces of official mail were received during the month of December and 653 were sent out.

### Finances

Costs of Operation, etc.: The cost of operating the park for the month of December, 1924, will be shown on the Monthly Cost Accounting Report which will go forward as soon as prepared.

### Revenues:

#### Sale of Electricity:

Certified Check #1003, dated Dec. 8, 1924, drawn by H. W. Child on the National Bank of Montana, Helena, Mont., to the Director, National Park Service, amount.....\$ 7.25

Certified check #768, dated Dec. 6, 1924, drawn by H. W. Child on the National Bank of Montana, Helena, Mont., to the Director, National Park Service, amount..... 162.83

Certified check #799, dated Dec. 12, 1924, drawn by Vernon Goodwin on the National Bank of Montana, Helena, Mont., to The Director, National Park Service, amount..... 2.40

Certified check #449, dated December 29, 1924, drawn by Geo. Whittaker on the National Park Bank, Livingston, Mont., to The Director, National Park Service, amount..... 12.80

#### Sale of buffalo meat:

Certified check #15479, dated December 26, 1924, drawn by F. C. Baumgart on The National Park Bank, Livingston, Mont., to The Director, National Park Service, amount..... 125.00

Postal Money Order #59333, dated December 13, 1924, drawn by the Postmaster at Yellowstone Park, Wyo., on the Postmaster at Washington, D.C., amount..... 100.00

Postal Money Order #59334, dated December 13, 1924, drawn by the Postmaster at Yellowstone Park, Wyo., on the Postmaster at Washington, D.C., amount..... 25.00

Total \$435.28



### Plans, Maps and Surveys

The two assistant engineers devoted their time during the month to general office work, making maps, etc., as no work could be done on the outside.

### Report on Commissary and Transportation

The Master of Transportation reports the straightening up of the storehouse, getting tools ready for repair, and the taking of inventory. The truck drivers were laid off at the beginning of the month of December, with the exception of Charles Green, who was given an appointment.

Five carloads of hay and two of oats were hauled from Gardiner.

### III. MAINTENANCE OF IMPROVEMENTS AND FACILITIES

#### Grounds

The Foreman in charge of grounds at headquarters supervised the work of freighting about headquarters, hauling of garbage, ice, coal, wood, etc., and care of the stable.

On the 30th of December the annual ice harvest was begun; which will in all probability be finished by the 10th of January.

#### Electrical and Telephone Systems

Three men worked one shift each daily in the power plant.

The Acting Chief Electrician did minor wiring and repair work in the following quarters and shop: Stockett-Rosch; Neumann; Blacksmith Shop. More extensive work was done in Bilkert's quarters, and in the new Gardiner Ranger Station.

The Power Plant was operated in the usual manner. It was run constantly with the results shown in comparison for December, 1923, as follows:

|   | <u>1923</u> | <u>1924</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Total current generated in KW hours   | 24,132      | 60,670      |
| Of this, sold to public utilities at<br>5¢ per KWH  | 3,425       | 3,745       |
| Consumed for street lighting  | 1,260       | 2,015       |
| Balance, consumed in government buildings,<br>for power and lighting, and lost on<br>lines in transit | 19,447      | 64,910      |
| Peak load during month in KWH   |             | 102         |

The Telephone and Switchboard Office was open daily from 7:30 A.M. to 8:30 P.M. The total business handled was as follows:



|                           | <u>1923</u>  | <u>1924</u>  |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| On Government local lines | 2,598        | 3,470        |
| On Hotel Company lines    | 377          | 361          |
| On Long Distance          | 149          | 131          |
|                           | <u>4,124</u> | <u>3,962</u> |

#### Water and Sewer Systems

The installation of the new heating plant in Bilkert's quarters was completed.

General maintenance and repair work was done to water and sewer systems at Mammoth.

#### Machinery and Equipment

Four F.W.D. trucks were overhauled; 3 Fords and one service car and 7 graders overhauled. Three new freight bodies were made. Irons were made for six freight bodies.

The Blacksmith did horseshoeing and other work, besides the making of irons for the freight bodies for trucks.

The Master Painter painted six dump wagons and did miscellaneous shop work. The inside of Bilkert's quarters was completely refinished, and one room of the Stockett-Rosch quarters was papered.

#### IV. CONSTRUCTION OF IMPROVEMENTS

##### Improvements by Park Utilities

The Yellowstone Park Transportation Company discontinued work for the winter on the new garage building at Gardiner on December 6th. It is anticipated that work will be taken up again just as soon as the frost is out of the ground.

#### V. PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

##### Patrols

The special game patrol in the Northern Supervisory Territory was concluded on the 15th which was coincident with the closing of the hunting season in Park County, Montana (North Line). This patrol was maintained constantly for two months - October 15th to December 15th. All other patrols have been regularly made, the most noteworthy of which may be briefly noted as follows: Lake to Upper Yellowstone and return, 1st



to 10th inclusive; Riverside to Upper Basin and return, 3rd to 7th inclusive; Bechler River to Snake River, Thumb, Lake, Canyon, and thence to Lake again, 12th to 26th inclusive; Lake to Mammoth - telephone patrol - 26th to 30th inclusive. All patrols of the regular schedules have been promptly made and conditions are generally good throughout the park.

Chief Ranger Woodring has been active throughout the month directing the activities of the protection department. He has spent considerable time in the Northern District and has kept in constant touch with the hunting activities on the North Line; since the close of the hunting season he has been giving special attention to the antelope. Two rangers have been specially assigned to antelope patrol and to carry out our undertaking with the Forest Service and the State Game Department of Montana which obligates us to patrol the area around the Hoppe Ranch, Electric and Reese Creek. He personally makes frequent counts of elk, sheep, deer and antelope in the Mammoth-Gardiner District and is making preparations at this time for a number of elk shipments immediately after the first of the year.

First Assistant Chief Ranger Trischman has been directly in charge of the game patrol along the North Line, and since December 15th has been chiefly engaged in maintenance and repair work.

Assistant Chief Ranger Douglas is making frequent and extensive patrols of his district, his latest patrol being from Bechler River to Snake River, Lake, Canyon and thence back to Lake during the period - December 12 to 26th.

Assistant Chief Ranger Carter patrolled from Riverside to Mammoth on the 27th and 28th, and is now absent on leave.

#### Wild Animals

Game and Forage Conditions: Forage conditions are unsatisfactory on all the lower ranges because of snow crust and game is suffering somewhat because of it. They have concentrated in large numbers on the lower elevations - their usual winter range - and have subsisted themselves during the past two weeks almost exclusively by browsing, and considering this fact they are looking remarkably well. It is hoped that the mild temperatures of the last few days, together with the accumulation of fresh moist snow will in some way affect a softening of the snow crust. Should forage conditions continue as they are, game losses during the next few weeks will be severe. There is an abundance of forage on the higher elevations and the snow is not excessively deep and it is not crusted. All game in the higher elevations are wintering splendidly. At other points they have wintered fairly well to date and winter kills thus far have been negligible.



Elk: There are 3000 elk at Hellroaring and about 2000 on the Lamar River flats. There are 250 on Upper Slough Creek and 300 on Cache Creek ranging all the way up to the South Fork; 60 are reported on Pebble Creek and 28 on Warm Springs Creek in the vicinity of Upper Soda Butte Station. The usual numbers frequent the Gardiner-Mammoth District and they are faring reasonably well. There were in excess of 100 on the Parade Ground at Mammoth on the morning of the 27th. Patrols in the Central and Southern Areas report the usual small bands in the vicinity of Warm Basins and other favored points.

The definitely known losses during the hunting season in regions adjacent to the Park are noted as follows:

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Gardiner-Hellroaring-Crevise District | 366        |
| Gallatin District                     | 176        |
| Sylvan Pass District                  | 35         |
| Bechler River District                | 24         |
| West Yellowstone District             | 14         |
| Upper Yellowstone District            | 7          |
| Total                                 | <u>622</u> |

68 wounded elk are known to have found their way back into the Park, and many others are known to have passed on to the wooded areas beyond. These should be rated as losses as very few will survive the winter season. The losses noted above are authentic and are unquestionably correct as an absolute minimum. The actual and total losses are not definitely known by reason of the wide range of country accessible to hunters, much of which is inadequately policed. The North Line losses hereinbefore noted are strictly limited to a rather small area that lies to the east of the Yellowstone River and south and east of the Gardiner-Jardine Road. No account whatever is taken of kills below this point although we have information as to some that were made in the vicinity of Emigrant - approximately 25 miles down the river. Also, it will be stated that our count is restricted to kills made by hunters who are not resident in this locality, so taking into consideration the extensive areas not touched by our patrols, together with the information we have acquired from various reliable sources, I am sure it can be safely said that the kills in the Gallatin District totaled 200 and that the kills on the North Line (Yellowstone watershed) were in excess of 1000; this figure to include cripples and losses resulting from wounds. However, for the purposes of this report the estimate will be placed at 1000 even. The total kills for the season based on these estimates will aggregate 1280. The reported losses from accidental and unavoidable causes to date are 6.

Deer: Deer are generally in good condition at all points. The following counts were submitted during the month by rangers on patrol:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Hellroaring-Cottonwood District                 | 125 |
| Along antelope fence, Gardiner to Hoppe's Ranch | 73  |



Smaller counts ranging from 30 to 40 are made almost daily in the Gardiner-Mammoth District. The tame herd at Mammoth has been given a daily allowance of hay since the 15th. They vary in numbers from 24 to 30. A few losses have occurred during the month and are noted as follows:

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Mammoth District- 5 fawns - coyote kills - 1 buck and 1 doe |              |
| winter kills - 1 doe, coyote kills, total .....             | 8            |
| Hellroaring District - 1 fawn - coyote kill, - - - -        | total..... 1 |
| Upper Geyser Basin 1 buck - winter kill - - - -             | ..... 1      |
| Coyote kills - 7; winter kills - 3 - - - -                  | Total 10     |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Previously reported losses from accidental and unavoidable causes..... | 4  |
| Losses as heretofore reported - occasioned by hunters .....            | 56 |
| Total losses - season to date .....                                    | 70 |

Ranger Dupuis reports the presence of 4 white tailed deer in Cottonwood Basin - 1 buck, 1 doe and 2 fawn.

Antelope: Since the lifting of the antelope fence on November 12th this animal has been drifting in and out of the park at will, the drift being largely determined by weather conditions. When the weather is mild they frequent the lower slopes of Sepulchre and Mt. Evarts. Severe weather causes them to move down to points below the park line. No attempt has been made this month to revise or confirm the full count of 399 submitted in the November report. 188 is the largest number reported to date outside the fence. Two rangers were placed on special antelope patrol on the 26th. One is stationed at Hoppe's Ranch - the lower extremity of their range - the other will patrol from Mammoth and cover all points within the park. The total reported losses to date is 1 - an old buck, coyote kill. The herd is generally in fine condition.

Moose: Reports of isolated individuals or scattered groups of 2 and 3 are commonly received from rangers on patrol. The most noteworthy report for the month is from the Upper Yellowstone country, a total of 65 being observed between Cabin Creek and the Upper Yellowstone Station during the first week of the month.

Mountain Sheep: The following counts were submitted during the month: Hellroaring 35; Junction Butte 39; Mount Norris 18; Mt. Evarts 21. These were all casual, isolated counts that were incidental to some regular round of duty. A full count is not contemplated until the season is further advanced.

Buffalo - tame herd: A loss of 4 occurred during the month:

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 2 bulls - old - winter kill      |   |
| 2 steers - killed for the market |   |
| Total                            | 4 |



A summary of the losses this season to date reads as follows:

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Shipments  | 86 |
| Losses from accidental and<br>unavoidable causes         | 5  |
| Winter kills   | 2  |
| Kills for the market - steers                            | 4  |
| Killed by authority of the<br>director - crippled bull - | 1  |
| Total -  | 98 |

The herd total prior to the losses above noted was 780. The herd total at this writing is 682. Five hundred and forty are now at Slough Creek and feeding was begun at this point on the 28th and will continue for a period of 10 days when it is planned to remove them to the Buffalo Ranch. Weaning and castrating will begin on January 5th. The herd is in good condition.

Buffalo - wild herd: A count of 23 wild buffalo was had by rangers Dunrud and Wahl on the occasion of their recent patrol to Cold Creek. Twenty-two of this number were seen on Pelican Creek, and 1, an old bull, was near the Cold Creek Cabin. There were numerous buffalo signs on Cold Creek and Dunrud considers that there were at least 5 dozen buffalo in the vicinity. Lacombe asserts that no members of the tame herd are in this district, so the actual numbers seen together with the numerous signs observed indicate the presence of from 70 to 75 wild buffalo in the Cold Creek and Pelican Creek country.

Bear: Seven bear were reported out at Lake Station on the 13th.

Small animals: There were frequent reports of otter and marten from the Southern and Western Supervisory Territories.

Predatory Animals: The following predatory animal signs were observed during the month:

- 2 lynx signs in South Riverside District, December 23, 1924
- 1 lynx sign on Soda Butte Creek, December 6, 1924
- 2 wolf signs on south slope of Saddle Mountain, December 16, 1924
- 1 lion sign in Grayling District (West Boundary) December 12, 1924
- 1 lion sign near Madison Junction, December 7, 1924

I am pleased to advise that 44 coyotes were killed during the month; the kills this season to December 1st were 87, making a total of 131 to date. The total kills to December 31st of last year were 75.

Buffalo Ranch Operations: Buffalo feeding was begun at the Slough Creek Ranch on the 28th with a total of 540 buffalo on the feed ground; they will be removed to the Buffalo Ranch on or about January 5th.

Yancey Ranch: The feeding of Government and ranger horses will begin at the Yancey Ranch on January 1st.



### Arrests and Violations of Law

No arrests were made in Yellowstone Park during the past month. However, one Henry Rockinger of Gardiner, Mont., was recently arrested by a State Game Warden on a charge of unlawfully killing a mountain sheep in the environs of Gardiner near the park line. We have information to the effect that two eye witnesses to the killing have been secured, which gives reason to anticipate a conviction. The accused was convicted and fined earlier in the season on a charge of unlawfully killing a female deer within the park boundaries.

### Special Incident

One Ernest Bloom of St. Paul, Minn., entered the park via Gardiner about December 1st. He was without money and afoot and fairly well, although not suitably clad for the conditions he encountered in the park. He carried a suitcase with a few articles of clothing. He passed through Mammoth without attracting attention and proceeded to Norris and Canyon. He was found at Canyon Junction on the morning of December 4th by Park Ranger Wahl in a mentally confused and physically exhausted condition. First aid was rendered at the Canyon Ranger Station, and he was thereafter removed to more comfortable quarters at the residence of the caretaker at Canyon Hotel, where he received the best of care pending the arrival of transportation for his removal. He had been without food or shelter for 2 or 3 days and had in his possession a small bag of oats on which he had apparently been subsisting. He made no effort to avail himself of food and shelter at the ranger stations at Norris and Canyon and would probably have perished from exposure and lack of food except for the chance arrival of Ranger Wahl. Transportation consisted of a light cutter drawn by four horses through snow depths varying from 24 to 36 inches, and was a slow, laborious process. He was safely returned to Gardiner by the Chief Ranger and given some money and detailed instructions as to how to proceed to Butte, as it appears from his rather disjointed story that he thought himself en route to Butte when he was wandering through the park. He was entirely without sense of location.

### Other Items

Yellowstone Lake and River froze over on the night of the 18th and 19th and Assistant Chief Ranger Douglas skied on the river from Lake to Canyon on the 24th.

The Madison River froze over on the night of the 19th and 20th. The freezing over of the Yellowstone and the Madison are very unusual occurrences.



## VI. MUSEUM, NATURE GUIDE WORK, EDUCATIONAL WORK.

The most special and detailed study was made of miscellaneous wild life attracted to a buffalo carcass in the Buffalo Corral near Mammoth Camp. A tent-blind, especially designed and made by the Park Naturalist for the purpose, and similar studies, having been placed 50 feet from the carcass, daily observations and sometimes night observations were conducted from this place of vantage. Much material was collected in the form of notes, sketches, "still" pictures, and moving pictures. It is proposed to utilize the notes, observations and sketches for a magazine article covering the general subject - winter wild life about a buffalo carcass.

During the activities briefly outlined above a good opportunity was offered and availed of to note elk, deer and smaller animals in the daily trips to the Buffalo Corral.

Three articles and illustrations for two of them have been contributed to magazines. Seven other articles, and drawings and photographs for same, are in process of being written up for early publication; all but 2 from material collected in the past year on the natural history of the park.

Work has been begun on large drawings for the park museum, illustrating the mammal and bird life of the park in summer and winter. The original field sketches for these drawings were made during the past summer and winter and the present winter.

Half an hour or less has been spent at the daily feeding time with the tame coyote in an effort to keep the animal in his present condition of perfect good nature and domestication. It is confidently expected that "Gyp" will prove a strong attraction to tourists next summer.

Moving pictures were made of the tame coyote when liberated at the buffalo carcass and elsewhere.

Moving pictures of various wild life subjects and the dedication of the Eagle Scout Trail, made during the past spring and summer, were reviewed on the screen at Mammoth. Thus points of very practical value were noted to guide present and future work in this connection.

A request of particular interest for the "Nature Notes from Yellowstone Park" has come from a professor engaged in "conservation work" in Berlin, Germany.

About half way from Gardiner to Jardine two mountain sheep were seen within 100 yards of the road. From those making this trip regularly it is understood this was rather an exceptional thing.

At the invitation of Mr. Evans, Scout Executive of an encampment of Livingston Boy Scouts, the Park Naturalist made a trip



to Jardine for the purpose of giving a chalk-talk, discussion and exhibition of original drawings on the wild life of the Park to the scouts. Much interest was shown by the boys and their executive. The latter proposed tentative plans for a summer camp for his trip in the Park.

## VII. MISCELLANEOUS.

### Medical Service

Dr. J. M. Wolfe, Park Physician, reports having made 15 calls on National Park Service residents and received 20 office callers.

Dr. Wolfe's contract with the Government expired December 31st, and was not renewed. Until other arrangements can be made for medical service it will be necessary that employees residing in the Park make personal arrangements with the Doctor (who will continue here for a while) for medical service.

### Post Office

The Postmaster reports that both the incoming and outgoing Christmas mail was considerably heavier than for the same period last year.

Postmaster Lindsay was away on annual leave of absence December 12 to 18 inclusive.

Postoffice Inspector, C. T. Hansen, from Sheridan, Wyo., visited the Park December 19 and 20 for the purpose of making final inspection of the new fixtures which were installed in the old stone barracks. The fixtures were found satisfactory, and accepted from the contractors on behalf of the Post Office Department. This provides larger quarters for use of the post office in summer, which have been needed for two or three years.

### Religious Services

Religious services were held by Rev. Wm. Friend Day on the evening of December 7th, and morning of December 21st. Special Christmas services were held by Rt. Rev. H. H. Fox, Suffren Bishop of Montana, morning of December 26th.

English Lutheran services were held by Rev. Geo. C. Koehler on Thursday evening, December 4th; and special Christmas services on Friday evening, December 26th.

Cordially yours,

LEROY HILL  
Acting Superintendent.

The Director,  
National Park Service,  
Dept. of the Interior,  
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